

REWARD THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WORLD FLYERS

FEBRUARY 5, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HILL of Maryland, from the Committee on Military Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12064]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 12064) to recognize and reward the accomplishment of the world flyers, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The world flight of the Army aviators was an accomplishment that marks an epoch in world history. In his annual message to Congress of December 3, 1924, the President said:

Progress is constantly being made in air navigation and requires encouragement and development. Army aviators have made a successful trip around the world, for which I recommend suitable recognition through provisions for promotion, compensation, and retirement.

This statement was given much publicity, and met with a ready response in the minds of the people of this Nation.

A bill (H. R. 10562) was introduced in the House. The War Department was then asked for an official report, and the following letter was received from the Secretary of War:

Hon. JOHN C. MCKENZIE,
*Acting Chairman Committee on Military Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. MCKENZIE: With reference to the latter of December 12, 1924, from the late Congressman Julius Kahn, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives, inclosing a copy of H. R. 10562, introduced by Hon. J. P. Hill, Congressman from Maryland, a bill "To recognize and reward the accomplishment of the world flyers," I herewith submit the following report:

In regard to section 1, page 1, it is recommended that lines 4 and 5 be changed by eliminating the words "First Lieutenant" and substituting therefor the word "Captain"; that line 5 be changed by eliminating the words "one hundred and fifty" and substituting therefor the words "one thousand"; that lines 8 and 9 be modified by eliminating the word "seventy-five" and substituting therefor

the words "five hundred." Captain Smith was confirmed by the Senate in the grade of captain on December 20, 1924. The other changes are recommended in order to give a greater measure of immediate advancement to the officers concerned.

It is further recommended that after the word "promotion" in line 9, page 1, the following be added: "*Provided*, That the officers hereinbefore named be and remain extra numbers in their grade, to be carried as extra numbers up to and including the grade of colonel: *Provided further*, That nothing in this act shall operate to interfere with or retard the promotion to which any other officer on the promotion list would be entitled under existing law." This change is recommended in order that no other officers will be adversely affected by the provisions of this act.

It is recommended that this act be modified by changing the words "lineal list for promotion" as they appear in lines 5 and 9, page 1, and line 6, page 2, to read "promotion list." This change is recommended to conform with the designation at present used by the War Department when referring to the list upon which the names of these officers are carried.

In regard to section 2, it is recommended that line 9, page 2, be modified by interpolating between the words "the" and "number" the word "total." This is done in order to avoid any possible conflict between sections 1 and 2.

In regard to section 3, it is recommended that line 13, page 2, be modified by inserting after the word "officers" the words "of the Regular Army and Officers' Reserve Corps." This modification is made in order that the distinguished-service medal may be authorized for all the world fliers.

Although I am not in favor of financial reward for these world fliers, I recommend that additional reward be given them by a provision added to this bill, which would read substantially as follows:

"SEC. 4. Each of the officers of the Regular Army and officers of the Officers Reserve Corps who may be appointed to commissioned grade in the Regular Army under the provisions of this act, shall be advanced one grade upon retirement; and at any time after the passage of this act, any officer so benefited by the provisions of this act, may, on his own application, be retired by the President at seventy-five per centum of the pay of the rank upon which he is retired."

A precedent for the above recommendation is found in the act of Congress approved March 4, 1915, which rewarded certain officers who participated in the construction of the Panama Canal.

With the exceptions of the recommendations noted above, this legislation has my heartiest approval.

This proposed legislation has been submitted to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, who advises that the proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

A redraft of H. R. 10562, in accordance with these recommendations, is appended.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*

[H. R. 10562, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session]

A BILL To recognize and reward the accomplishment of the world fliers

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is hereby authorized to advance First Lieutenant Lowell Herbert Smith, Air Service, United States Army, one hundred and fifty files on the lineal list for promotion; First Lieutenant Leigh Wade, First Lieutenant Leslie Philip Arnold, and First Lieutenant Erik Henning Nelson, all of the Air Service, United States Army, seventy-five files each on the lineal list for promotion.

SEC. 2. The President is hereby authorized, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate, to commission Technical Sergeant Henry Herbert Ogden, Air Service, United States Army (second lieutenant, Air Service, Officers' Reserve Corps), and John Harding, junior, second lieutenant, Air Service, Officers' Reserve Corps, as second lieutenants, Air Service, United States Army, to be placed on the lineal list for promotion next after the second lieutenant who immediately precedes them on the date of the approval of this act: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this act shall operate to increase the number of commissioned officers of the Regular Army of the United States now authorized by law.

SEC. 3. The President is hereby authorized to present to each of the officers hereinbefore named a distinguished-service medal, and each of them is hereby authorized to accept any medals or decorations tendered to or bestowed upon them by foreign governments.

REDRAFT OF H. R. 10562

A BILL To recognize and reward the accomplishment of the world flyers

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is hereby authorized to advance Captain Lowell Herbert Smith, Air Service, United States Army, one thousand files on the promotion list; First Lieutenant Leigh Wade, First Lieutenant Leslie Philip Arnold, and First Lieutenant Erick Henning Nelson, all of the Air Service, United States Army, five hundred files each on the promotion list: *Provided*, That the officers hereinbefore named be and remain extra numbers in their grade to be carried as extra numbers up to and including the grade of colonel: *Provided further*, That nothing in this act shall operate to interfere with or retard the promotion to which any other officer on the promotion list would be entitled under existing law.

SEC. 2. The President is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to commission Technical Sergeant Henry Herbert Ogden, Air Service, United States Army (second lieutenant, Air Service, Officers' Reserve Corps), and John Harding, junior, second lieutenant, Air Service, Officers' Reserve Corps, as second lieutenants, Air Service, United States Army, to be placed on the promotion list next after the second lieutenant who immediately precedes them on the date of the approval of this act: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this act shall operate to increase the total number of commissioned officers of the Regular Army of the United States now authorized by law.

SEC. 3. The President is hereby authorized to present to each of the officers of the Regular Army and Officers' Reserve Corps hereinbefore named a distinguished-service medal, and each of them is hereby authorized to accept any medals or decorations tendered to or bestowed upon them by foreign governments.

SEC. 4. Each of the officers of the Regular Army hereinbefore named and each of the officers of the Officers' Reserve Corps hereinbefore named who may hereafter be appointed to commissioned grade in the Regular Army under the provisions of this act shall be advanced one grade upon retirement, and at any time after the passage of this act any officer so benefited by the provisions of this act may, on his own application, be retired by the President at 75 per centum of the pay of the rank upon which he is retired.

Your committee then held a hearing on the measure and after a careful consideration of the subject matter together with the various recommendations offered by those interested in the proposition, Mr. Hill of Maryland introduced a new bill carrying the provisions of the proposed legislation as now reported.

It will be noted the proposed provision for the retirement of these officers is omitted. Your committee feels these officers are too valuable to be retired, and it is desired they remain in active service just as long as may be possible.

It is believed this measure as reported will provide a suitable reward for an outstanding achievement and your committee urge its speedy passage.

